

Department of Transportation

Office of the Secretary

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April 24, 2009

The Honorable Stephanie Herseth Sandlin
South Dakota Congressional Representative
331 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Herseth Sandlin:

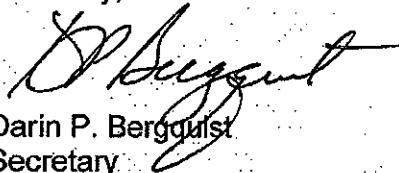
I fully support the reconstruction of US Highway 18 on the Pine Ridge Reservation. The project is in the STIP and has been fully vetted before the public.

US Highway 18 is currently a narrow two-lane roadway that serves as one of the major east/west connectors to the Pine Ridge Reservation. This highway functions as a major commercial route in South Dakota as it is part of the National Highway System and the state's Preferred Truck Network.

The project design will widen the existing roadway to provide additional room for vehicles to safely negotiate the corridor. The project will provide a better connection to the Pine Ridge Reservation by improving the safety, economic productivity, and traffic flow for the corridor and adjacent highway segments.

This project is of national significance because it improves transportation connections to one of the poorest counties in the nation. I respectfully request your support of this project as it is economically and environmentally beneficial for our state's citizens and the tourists who visit South Dakota.

Sincerely,



Darin P. Bergquist
Secretary

Attachment